



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 3, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #43: May 22 – May 28, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO MIGUEL 138/69 kV ACTIVITIES, NTP #1 AND #2

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on May 25th and May 26th to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. The construction of the foundations for the 138 kV portion of the project has been completed and the civil construction crews have demobilized from the project. Over the next several weeks, crews will be installing Best Management Practices to prevent future erosion and sedimentation issues. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 included the following:

1. PAR crews worked on stringing and associated activities for the bundled 230 kV and 138 kV conductor during the subject week. These activities are described in the 230 kV section below.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project have revegetated. SDG&E has determined that revegetation of remaining sites will have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to summer.
2. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms.
3. The road to Fanita Junction needed repair before work could continue. The access road was covered with mud and grading would just force the mud off the approved access road. The CPUC EM previously reminded SDG&E that the mud from the access road could not be pushed outside the footprint of the existing access road. However, as previously reported, some mud has been pushed from the road during recent grading activities and will have to be addressed prior to any rains. SDG&E informed the CPUC EM that the site has been recontoured and seeded. The CPUC EM will review the area to ensure that the area was adequately restored.
4. An Essex EI was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project. Biologists worked to survey gnatcatcher areas prior to stringing activities.

MISSION TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION 230 kV ACTIVITIES, NTPS #3 AND #4

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on May 25th and May 26th to review construction progress and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent and temporary 230 kV systems.

PERMANENT 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #3 was issued to address 230 kV work on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar prior to the NTP for all 230 kV work to address the expiration of a permit with the Navy. NTP #4 addressed the permanent upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations. Work on the permanent system was limited to stringing of permanent Pole E to the temporary 230 kV system as described below. Construction of the permanent 230 kV system is scheduled to resume on June 20.

TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Although the steel 138 kV poles currently being installed by PAR between Los Coches and the Miguel Substation will be permanent, the 230 kV conductor is being strung temporarily to facilitate the early energization of the line. Temporary wood poles had also been previously installed. Only limited construction activities were observed during the site visit on the temporary 230 kV system as work is gradually being completed. The following were the main temporary 230 kV construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. Wilson crews worked with man-lifts on the hilltops over Lake Jennings Road, preparing to pull the conductor across the road (see Figure 1). The Essex EI has marked the nesting bird areas with caution tape, fencing, and signs.
2. While crews were pulling in wire soc-line with a rope between Pole E and the temporary wood pole on the southwest side of Lake Jennings Road, the rope broke and the wire soc-line fell to the ground. The guard structure installed protected the road and vehicles when the wire fell across Lake Jennings Road (see Figure 2). In addition, traffic flaggers were on the road during the operation to protect motorists. A portion of the line was dropped in the maritime succulent scrub that is coastal cactus wren habitat, on the slope between Lake Jennings Road and Pole E. Two adults and two juveniles coastal cactus wrens were observed close to the dropped wire at the time of the incident. Crews were able to re-attach the broken rope to the wire soc-line and lift the wire off the ground; however, the rope broke again and the coastal cactus wrens flushed out of the way as the wire dropped into the vegetation again. Crews secured the line to allow for a survey of the area to see if any cactus wrens or their nests were impacted. Minimal damage was observed to the vegetation. There were no nests observed in the impact zone and no individual bird was harmed from the wire dropping. The CPUC EM was notified by the Essex EI and a memorandum was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game describing the incident. The USFWS responded to the memorandum and is not requiring any further action. SDG&E has requested that the contractor use different pulling equipment that is not as susceptible to breaking.

Environmental Compliance:

1. The pair of red tailed hawk chicks across from Steele Canyon High School are moving about the nest and show no sign of disturbance from the construction activity in the area (see Figure 3).
2. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms.
3. An Essex EI has been working closely with the Wilson and PAR crews to perform any necessary training and arrange for any required biological surveys. The Essex EI has marked the nesting bird areas above Los Coches Substation with caution tape, fencing, and signs.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16th. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20th.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On May 20th, Variance Request #19 was submitted asking for a waiver from the 30-day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line under Mitigation Measure PS-2a. On June 2, SDG&E resubmitted the variance request to address the entire measure instead of just the 30-day noticing period. The variance request is currently under review. On May 26th, Variance Request #20 was submitted requesting approval for work on Sunday, May 31st. The request was not received in time for approval prior to the Sunday in question. Fortunately, no work was required outside the days approved in the project documents.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 06/31/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 st on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15 th .	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	10/06/04
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 st at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Completed	10/26/04
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 th at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05
9	02/16/05	Perform construction activities on Sunday, February 20 th at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 st on the project during the 2004/2005 nesting season.	Completed	3/22/05
11	03/14/05	Work after 7pm at Pole 411 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	03/16/05
12	03/14/05	Work on Sunday, March 20 th to string cable at eight towers to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule. Modification added for line work north of Los Coches Substation.	Completed	03/17/05
13	03/28/05	Work on Cesar Chavez holiday, Thursday March 31 st .	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 rd and Sunday, April 10 th to string cable to comply with Caltrans/ Highway Patrol lane closure requirements.	Completed	3/30/05
15	04/15/05	Programmatic variance to work on outside the approved construction schedule with prior approval from the CPUC EM.	Completed	4/19/05
16	5/05/05	Work on Sunday, May 8 th to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/05/05
17	5/09/05	Parking of a crane truck in the vegetation approximately 500 feet southwest of Pole Site 10.	Completed	5/10/05
18	05/11/05	Work on Sunday, May 15 th to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/12/05
19	05/20/05 MOD- 6/2/05	Waiver from the 30 day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line as required by Mitigation Measure PS-2a.	Under Review	
20	05/26/05	Work on Sunday, May 29 th to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	5/31/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 06/3/05)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #2
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #2
7	Los Coches to Miguel	02/11/05	Southwest of Pence Road, San Diego County	Approved from 02/16 to 04/16	02/16/05
8	Los Coches to Miguel	03/11/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/16 to 05/16	03/16/05
9	Mission to Fanita	03/18/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/21 to 05/21	03/21/05
10	Los Coches to Miguel	03/29/05	PAR staging and show-up yard on Jamacha Road.	Approved from 03/29 to 05/29	03/29/05
11	Los Coches to Miguel	04/29/05	Placement of two cranes to create a guard structure south of Hwy. 94.	Approved from 04/29 to 06/29	04/29/05

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Wilson crews prepared for the line pull across Lake Jennings Road.



Figure 2 – The Wilson stringing crew pulling line across Lake Jennings Road.



Figure 3 – Red tailed hawk young in lattice tower across from Steele Canyon High School.